



HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1948.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G. Evans,M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health1948.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District during the year 1948.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 3/49 (Wales).

The year under review witnessed the coming into operation of various extremely important Acts, such as the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act 1948.

These Acts have produced great changes in the work of public health administration and have revolutionised the medical and hospital services throughout the country. The Local Health Authority under these Acts, is, in Breconshire, the County Council.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1948.

Area 39,153 acres.
 Population (Census 1931) 4028.
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1948) 3654.
 Number of inhabited houses 869.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate.	32.	26.	58	
Illegitimate.	0.	1.	1	
	32.	27.	59.	16.1

Still Births.	0.	2.	2.	0.6
Deaths from all causes	14.	14.	28.	7.6

Maternal Deaths Nil.

Deaths under one year.

All infants 4. Rate per 1000 live births 67.
 Legitimate infants 4.

Deaths from special causes;

Infectious disease Nil.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system 1.

Other tuberculous disease Nil.

Cancer 7.

AREA. The Rural District of Hay, which has an area of 39,153 acres forms, part of the County of Breconshire. The district is situated in the northern part of the County and is agricultural in nature with farming as the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

POPULATION. Census 1931 4028.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
3486.	4167.	4398.	4019.	3832.	3535.	3390.	3269.	3327.	3654.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population reached a maximum in 1941, and has been declining ever since until 1947, since when there has been an increase.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 869 giving an average number of 4.2 persons per house.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			40.....	11.4.
1939.....			64.....	18.2.
1940.....	17.....	34.....	51.....	12.2.
1941.....	25.....	38.....	63.....	14.3.
1942.....	23.....	20.....	43.....	10.7.
1943.....	28.....	27.....	55.....	14.6.
1944.....	29.....	33.....	62.....	17.4.
1945.....	32.....	34.....	66.....	18.8.
1946.....	17.....	24.....	41.....	12.5.
1947.....	26.....	28.....	54.....	16.2.
1948.....	32.....	27.....	59.....	17.6.
England and Wales, 1948.....				17.9.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was a little lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents of the district is shown below;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			32.....	9.1.
1939.....			37.....	10.2.
1940.....	27.....	33.....	60.....	14.4.
1941.....	24.....	25.....	49.....	11.1.
1942.....	19.....	18.....	37.....	9.2.
1943.....	22.....	14.....	36.....	9.4.
1944.....	24.....	11.....	35.....	9.8.
1945.....	23.....	14.....	37.....	10.9.
1946.....	31.....	15.....	46.....	14.0.
1947.....	20.....	8.....	28.....	8.4.
1948.....	14.....	14.....	28.....	7.6.
England and Wales, 1948.....				10.8.

The deathrate for 1948 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was the lowest recorded for many years.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	0.5.
1939.....			3.....	0.8.
1940.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1941.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.4.
1942.....	4.....	1.....	5.....	1.2.
1943.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5.
1944.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	0.6.
1945.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	0.3.
1946.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.6.
1947.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3.
1948.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.6.
England and Wales, 1948.....				0.42.

The still birth rate was therefore a little higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			3.....	75.
1939.....			1.....	15.6.
1940.....	0	4	4.....	78.
1941.....	2	1	3.....	47.
1942.....	2	0	2.....	46.
1943.....	2	0	2.....	36.
1944.....	0	0	0.....	0.
1945.....	1	1	2.....	36.
1946.....	2	0	2.....	48.
1947.....	2	0	2.....	36.
1948.....	2	2	4.....	67.
England and Wales, 1948.....				54.

The infantile mortality rate was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	<u>Males,....14.</u>	<u>Females,....14.</u>
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory system.....	1.....	0.
Cancer Stomach.....	0.....	1.
Cancer Breast.....	0.....	2.
Cancer other sites.....	2.....	2.
Intracranial Vascular Lesions.....	2.....	0.
Heart Disease.....	2.....	4.
Other circulatory diseases.....	2.....	0.
Digestive Diseases.....	1.....	0.
Prematurity.....	2.....	2.
Suicide.....	1.....	1.
All other causes.....	1.....	2.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of deaths.

Illegitimacy.

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1948 amounted to one.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers during the year. Mr. G. G. Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme laboratory at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes became operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council became responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations became whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Hay and Talgarth. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided for by the Broc on War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of cases are also admitted into Hereford Hospital.

During the year the Council was informed that the Isolation Hospital at Hay was not required under the provision of the New Health Act and therefore was not taken over by the state.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment will, in the future be accommodated at Hereford or Merthyr.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the provision of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I am indebted to your sanitary inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and workings of the factories acts which are included in this section of the report.

Water Supplies.

Water has been satisfactory in quantity during the year for those dwellings below the Ordnance contour of 500 feet, but most unsatisfactory for the majority of the dwellings above this height.

The scheme previously submitted by a consulting engineer was advanced during the year but real progress seems very slow.

In the district there are 18 water supplies serving six dwellings or more by pipes either into the dwellings or to standpipes. Of these 18 supplies 6 are owned by the Council. There are 170 supplies serving five dwellings or less and 60 of these are piped supplies, the remaining 110 being either from pumps or springs.

Details of the water supply for each parish is given below.

1. Aberllynfi. The quality and quantity of the water in this parish has been satisfactory during the year. The Council own the supply known as the Lodge serving the hamlet of Three Cocks. All the houses in this parish have water pipes inside the house.

One sample of water was sent for bacteriological examination and this was satisfactory.

2. Bronllys. There are two public supplies in this parish. One of these is owned by the Welsh National Memorial Association and this supplies the sanatorium and all the dwelling houses on the estate. The other supply is owned by the Council and water is drawn from springs under the Minfield bank and is not treated. This supply is augmented from the Talgarth supply during periods of drought. Eighty nine dwellings are served from this supply. There are thirteen other supplies in this parish, all privately owned. 2 samples of water were sent for analysis during the year the 2 were reported as being satisfactory.

3. Glyngach and the Usk Valley portion of Treapod and Velindro.

There are ten private supplies in this area, three are piped into four dwellings, none are treated and the other seven are simply running springs near the small holdings. It would not be difficult in this area to find sufficient water to give each dwelling a piped supply. The distances to be piped would be considerable but this should not deny the public a wholesome supply of water.

No samples of water were submitted during the year.

4. Hay Rural. Fifteen houses in this parish are served with a piped supply from the Council's supply at Llanigon. This water is not treated. There are 21 other supplies in the parish and of these 7 are piped. One dwelling has to obtain water from a source over 200 yards away.

Three samples were sent for analysis and all were classified as satisfactory.

5. Llanolieu. There are 15 dwellings in this parish, 10 in the Wye valley and 5 in the Usk valley and all have a piped supply laid on but are served from 9 different sources.

No samples were submitted during the year.

6. Llanigon. The village of Llanigon is served by a public water supply owned by the Council. Springs are collected to a service reservoir but the water is not treated. The hamlet of Ffordlais receives water from the Llwynfellyn dam. These two sources supply 8 dwellings with water laid on and 10 dwellings from a standpipe. There are 7 other supplies in the parish and 5 of these are piped. Eleven are supplied with water from a considerable distance, 7 over 150 yards, 2 over 200 yards and 2 take a supply from open streams.

Five samples were examined during the year and all were satisfactory.

Sixteen dwellings in this parish situated over the 500 foot contour are badly in need of water for domestic use and the attention of the Council is drawn to this. It was decided during the year to increase the storage capacity of the village supply.

7. Llyswn. Of the 56 dwellings in this parish, 38 have water laid on, 14 are served by standpipes and 4 are served by pumps. Thirty three dwellings are supplied by the Council and this water is not treated.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

8. Pipton. There are 10 private supplies in this parish and of these, 6 are piped supplies serving some 11 dwellings. No water is treated. The other dwellings are served by individual pumps. One pump serving two cottages is without water for two to three months in a dry year and the tenants then carry water some 350 yards. No samples were submitted for analysis.

9. Talgarth (Wye Valley Section).

There are 3 public supplies in this section, one owned by the Mental Hospital Committee and two by the Council. The larger of the Council's supplies serves 260 dwellings with water laid on and 32 from standpipes. The supply received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital supply is sand filtered and chlorinated. This augmented from springs collected in the Llanolicu parish.

During the year certain works of improvement were carried out to the Mental Hospital supply. A second filter bed was brought into working order, the ammonia treatment was discontinued and certain other improvements completed. This supply can now be regarded as satisfactory.

The smaller supply serves the hamlets of Trevecca and Tredustan. Twelve dwellings have water laid on and three are served by standpipes. No samples from this source were sent for analysis.

As in other parishes dwellings above the 500 feet contour are badly supplied with water.

There are some 45 other supplies of which 12 are piped and all are subject to pollution.

10. Talgarth (Usk Valley Section).

There is no public supply in this area. There are 24 dwelling houses in this area of which 3 have private piped supplies whilst the other 21 are supplied by running springs. Seven samples were taken, of which 2 were satisfactory. Negotiations to purchase this supply were commenced during the year.

11. Tregoyd and Volindre. (Wye Valley Section).

Of the 118 dwellings in this parish 100 have water laid on and 6 are served by standpipes. All the supplies are owned by private individuals. One individual supplies water to 32 dwellings and another supplies 30 dwellings. The small holdings above 500 feet are here again badly supplied and the main supplies in this parish are insufficient in times of drought whilst the quality is not satisfactory.

Four samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and three were satisfactory.

In conclusion it is obvious from the above description that all the water supplies outside the Town of Talgarth and the villages of Bronllys, Llyswen and Three Cocks should have urgent and serious consideration. They are subject to pollution and the very number - 170 different sources make it impossible to give them the individual attention as frequently as public health demands.

Drainage and Sewerage. New sewers and sewage disposal works are required for the villages of Three Cocks, Bronllys, Llanigon, Llyswen, Volindre and Glasbury.

The Trevecca settling tanks could with advantage be enlarged and emptied more frequently.

In Bronllys there is no treatment plant, the sewage running over fields. This should be improved.

There is also considerable work to be done at the Talgarth sewage disposal works as the present effluent is far from satisfactory.

Number of visits to disposal sites.....6.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected twice weekly in Talgarth, once a week in Bronllys and once a month in the district around Talgarth. The refuse is then disposed of by burying. No other collection is made in the remainder of the district. Previously refuse was collected by contract but during the year it was collected by Council's lorry and staff.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the sanitary inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	25.
Number of complaints investigated.....	25.
Number of premises visited.....	50.
Number of premises revisited.....	11.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	4.
Number of abatement notices served.....	1.

There has been considerable difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building material. At present repair work is mainly of a patching nature and it is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....18.

Shops.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....20.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	22.
Number of inspections made.....	26.
Number of defects found	
a. Want of cleanliness.....	5.
b. Insufficient sanitary conveniences.....	1.
Number of cases reported by Factories Inspector.....	0.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district for which a licence is necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations. No premises were found to be so infested during the year.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operator is employed who works under the supervision of the sanitary inspector. This operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban Council and Painscastle Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....251.
 Number of premises found infested.....103.
 Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....76.
 Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....1572.
 Number of dead rats actually recovered.....625.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING. There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing shortage was acute. The Council had under construction 22 houses at Talgarth and these were nearing completion at the end of the year. It is to be hoped that labour conditions and the supply of materials will show some improvement during the coming year so that this pressing need in the district may be alleviated.

One house was completed by private enterprise.

Number of house to house inspections by sanitary inspector....94.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Milk sampling in the district is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt is made by the sanitary inspector to test each retailers milk once a fortnight. The wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The laboratory under this scheme is situated at Brecon. Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories;

- Category A....Milk of good keeping quality.
- Category B....Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
- Category C....Milk of poor keeping quality.

The following figures show the number of results of milk samples taken during the year.

Number of samples taken.....243.
 Number graded into Category A.....215.
 Number graded into Category B.....11.
 Number graded into Category C.....17.
 Number of cowsheds and dairy visits.....148.

Meat. There is no slaughter house in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's Slaughtering Point at Brecon. No meat was condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Number of tins of foodstuffs condemned.....78.
 Number of pounds of foodstuffs condemned.....18.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....15.

Ice Cream Premises.

Particular attention was paid to these owing to the epidemic of typhoid fever at Aberystwyth. Numerous visits of inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector.....30.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....20.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Diphtheria.....,1case.
Undulant fever.....,1case.
Measles.....,1case.
Scarlet Fever.....3cases.

The case of diphtheria and that of undulant fever were removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital and the remaining cases were isolated at home.

The fees paid by the Council for the notifications of infectious disease are now, under the new Health Act, refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in 1948 and recent years;

Number of cases on the **register** at commencement of year.....17.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....6.
Number of cases removed due to death.....1.
Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....3.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....19.

The number of cases notified during recent years is shown below;

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
6.	7.	6.	5.	6.	5.	8.	4.	5.	6.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

In December of the year, the County Council took over all those duties from me. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

There was one case of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,
T.C.R. George,
Medical Officer of Health.

